



Ministry  
of Defence



Military Search and Rescue  
Monthly Statistics  
September 2013

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The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods,
- and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

## Key Points

- During September 2013 there were 152 incidents, resulting in 158 callouts and 136 persons moved. The number of persons moved, incidents and callouts were at similar levels to September 2012.
- Land callouts, as in previous months, have remained the most pronounced. During September 2013 there were 116 land, 10 coastal and 10 maritime related callouts.
- The unit which responded to the most callouts during September was HMS Gannet, with 38. HMS Gannet also had the highest number of persons moved, with 37. There were 3 other units that each had over 20 callouts in the month; RAF Lossiemouth with 23 callouts and 21 persons moved, RAF Valley with 22 callouts and 20 persons moved, and RNAS Culdrose with 21 callouts and 16 persons moved.
- The type of callout that was highest during the month was Medrescue with 64 callouts. During September 2013, 13 of the HMS Gannet callouts were Medrescue (the movement of an injured person to a medical facility).
- The unit with the highest total flying hours this month was HMS Gannet, with over 60 hours flown, at an average of 1 hour and 41 minutes.
- During September 2013, the Lossiemouth and Valley Mountain Rescue Teams had a total of 5 callouts and rescued all 5 persons, requiring 762 man hours.

## What is included in this report

This report covers military SAR activities for September 2013. It includes details of the activities of UK military SAR helicopters, RAF SAR helicopters operating in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, and military MRT units. Details of MCA helicopters units are not included in this report. However, a summary is provided in the quarterly and annual SAR Reports, which are available at the following links:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-QTRLY>

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=SAR-REPORT-ANNUAL>

The report includes counts of the number of incidents, callouts and persons moved in the previous month.

Incidents are emergencies attended by Royal Navy or Royal Air Force units whose primary task is SAR, plus other military aircraft and ships that are available to the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC).

Each SAR unit attending an incident is described as a callout. An incident may result in one or more callouts.

Persons moved involves moving people from a hostile environment to a safe environment, or to a medical facility to receive urgent medical attention. It may also involve moving individuals between medical facilities at the request of the NHS.

The data source for this report is a weekly download from the ARCC database. Every incident recorded by the ARCC is included in these tables. Incident data from Cyprus and the Falklands is received on an ad hoc basis and may be incomplete. All data is validated and checked by Defence Economics on receipt. Further details are available in the SAR Background Quality Report. This also includes details of internal and external users of the reports, including a summary of their requirements and how well Defence Economics' reports meet these requirements.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2100&date=2012-01-23&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00>

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# Introduction

## *Military Search and Rescue*

The military Search and Rescue (SAR) service exists primarily to assist military personnel in difficulty, although the majority of its work involves assisting civilians in distress, both on land and at sea. SAR coverage for the United Kingdom and a large area of the surrounding sea is provided 24 hours a day and 365 days a year by the RAF and the Royal Navy.

## *UK Helicopters*

The UK military SAR aeronautical coverage currently consists of RAF and Royal Navy SAR Sea King helicopters operating from eight locations around the UK (RAF Boulmer, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leconfield, RAF Valley, RAF Chivenor, RAF Wattisham, RNAS Culdrose and HMS Gannet). The military SAR force operates 24 hours a day. It provides coverage throughout the UK, and also covers an area extending from the Faroe Islands in the north, the English Channel in the south, about half way across the North Sea to the east and halfway across the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The UK SAR helicopter coverage is coordinated by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) based at Kinloss Barracks.

## *Mountain Rescue Teams*

The RAF has four mountain rescue teams (MRT), based at RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Leuchars, RAF Leeming and RAF Valley. The MRT units provide land rescues, primarily over the mountain regions of the UK. Military MRT units are coordinated by the ARCC, and often work in conjunction with helicopter units.

## *Overseas Helicopters*

A SAR service is also provided by two overseas bases, at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the UK's military SAR coverage is available at:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafsearchandrescue/>

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Search-and-Rescue>

## *Other Search and Rescue*

In addition to the RAF and Royal Navy, a number of non-military organisations provide SAR coverage throughout the UK. The activities of these non-military organisations is outside the scope of this report, however background information on some of the organisations involved is provided below.

## *Maritime and Coastguard Agency*

In addition to the eight military aeronautical SAR units, additional aeronautical SAR coverage is provided by four Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) helicopter units. Although these are not part of the military SAR service, the MCA helicopters are coordinated by the ARCC at Kinloss Barracks, to provide integrated coverage across the UK. Details of their activities are included in the SAR Quarterly and Annual reports.

In addition to its aeronautical coverage, the MCA provides maritime SAR coverage throughout the UK. Details of maritime SAR callouts are not included in this report. Further information is available at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue.htm>

## *RNLI*

The RNLI is a charitable organisation providing 24 hour lifeboat SAR coverage around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, along with a seasonal lifeguard service.

<http://www.rnli.org.uk/>

## *Mountain Rescue Teams*

A number of voluntary Mountain Rescue services operate throughout the UK. These often work in conjunction with the military SAR service. Details of non-military Mountain Rescue callouts are not included in this report. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/>

<http://www.mrcofs.org/>

## *Air Ambulance*

Air Ambulance services operate throughout the UK, providing emergency medical assistance. Further information is available at:

<http://www.airambulanceassociation.co.uk/>

# UK & Overseas Search And Rescue Summary

## Current Month

2013	Total Callouts	UK Helicopters	Overseas Helicopters	Mountain Rescue Team
September	158	153	-	5

Incidents
152

Persons Moved
136

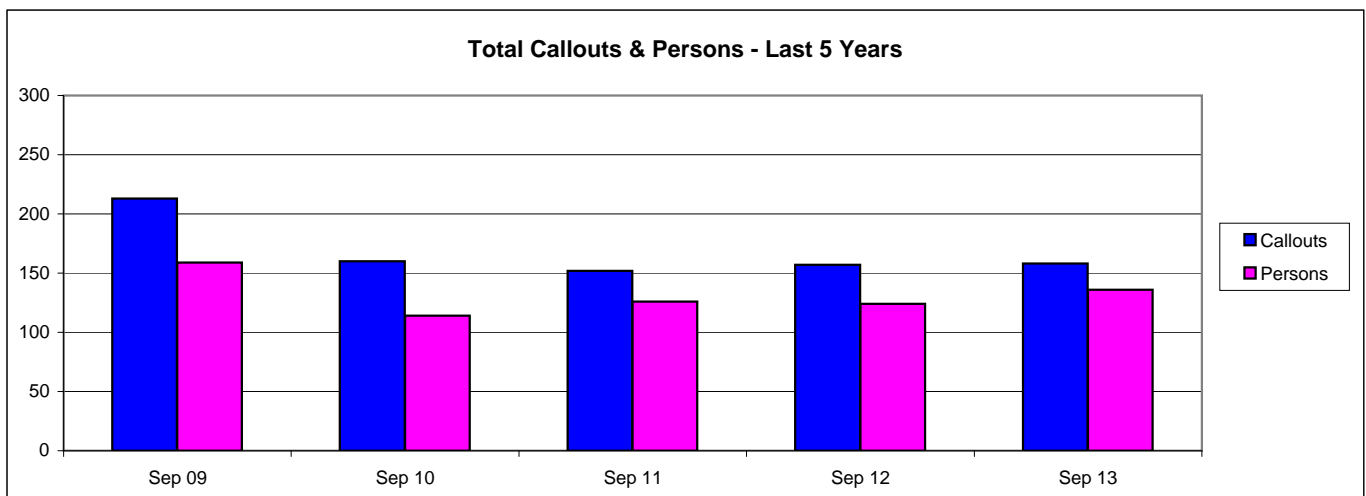
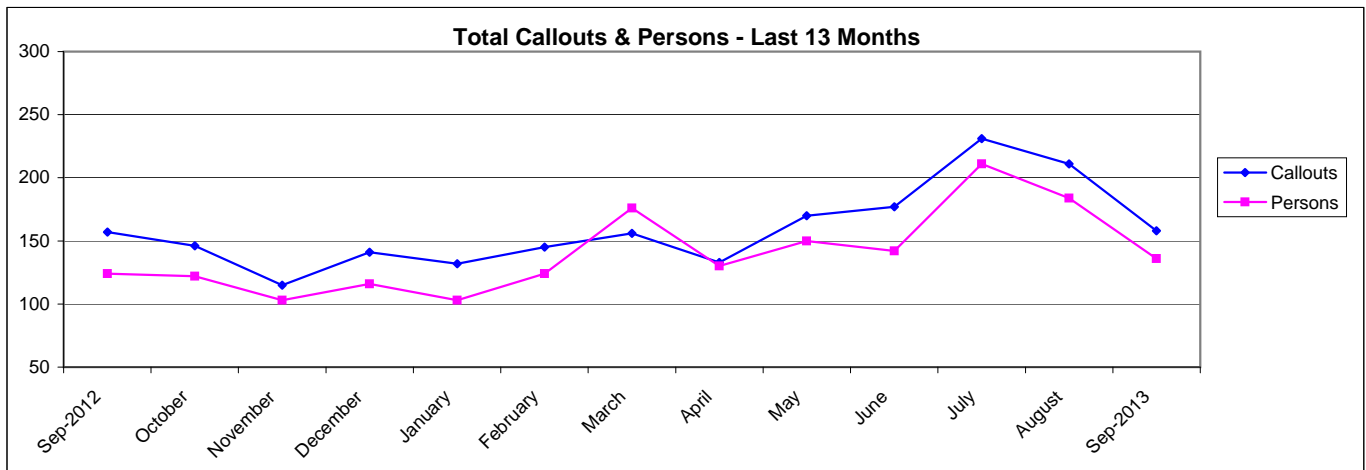
## Previous 12 Months

August	211	204	1	6
July	231	225	3	3
June	177	171	3	3
May	170	164	1	5
April	133	122	2	9
March	156	143	4	9
February	145	126	2	17
January	132	124	3	5
December	141	130	3	8
November	115	103	4	8
October	146	132	3	11
September	157	149	1	7

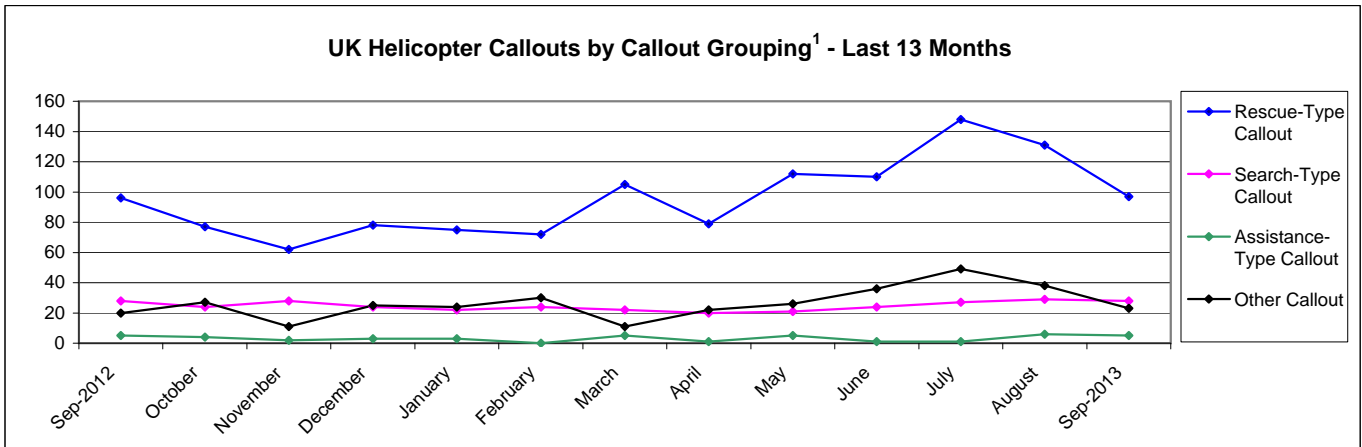
205
229
175
164
124
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128
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184
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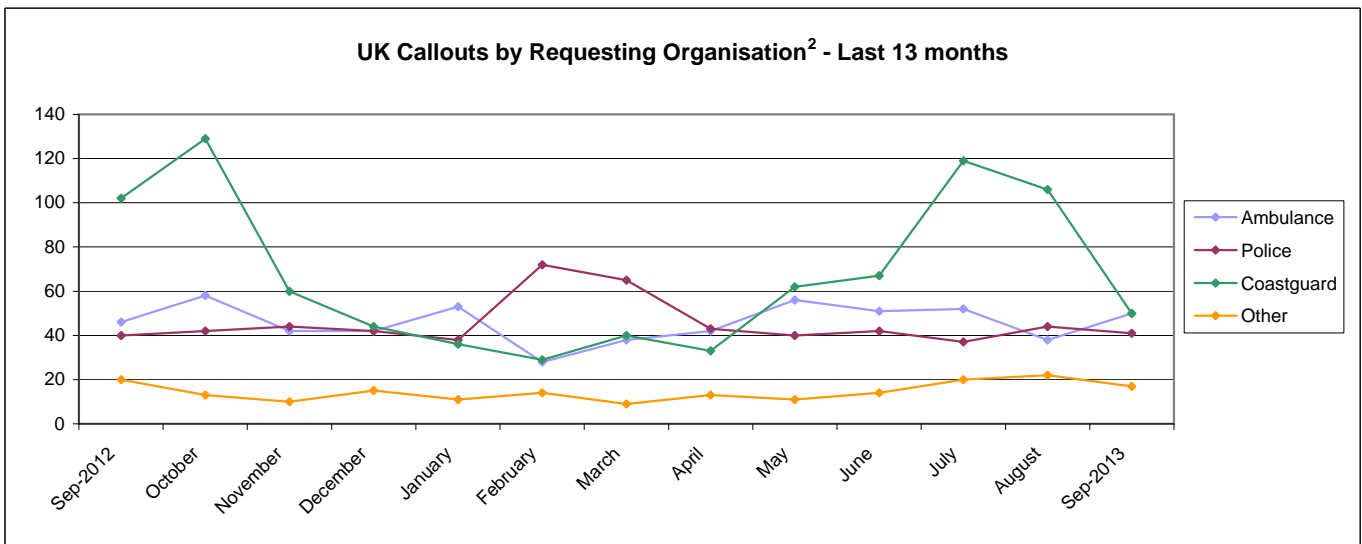
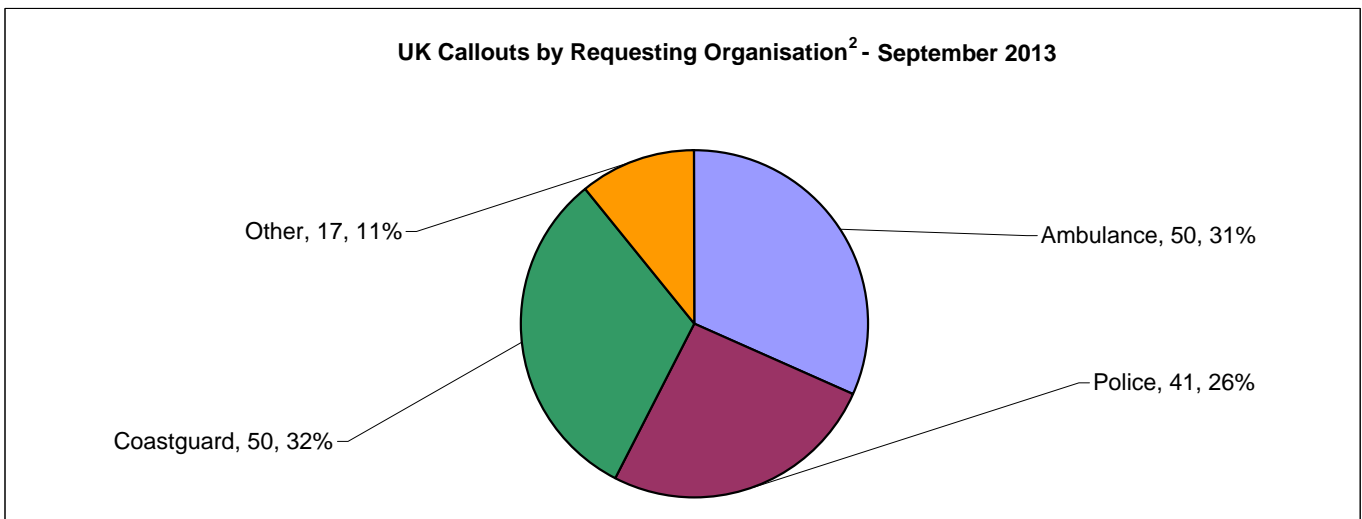
	ARCC Kinloss	RCC Cyprus	RCC Falklands	Total
Callouts	158	-	-	158
Incidents	152	-	-	152
Persons	136	-	-	136



# UK Search And Rescue Summary



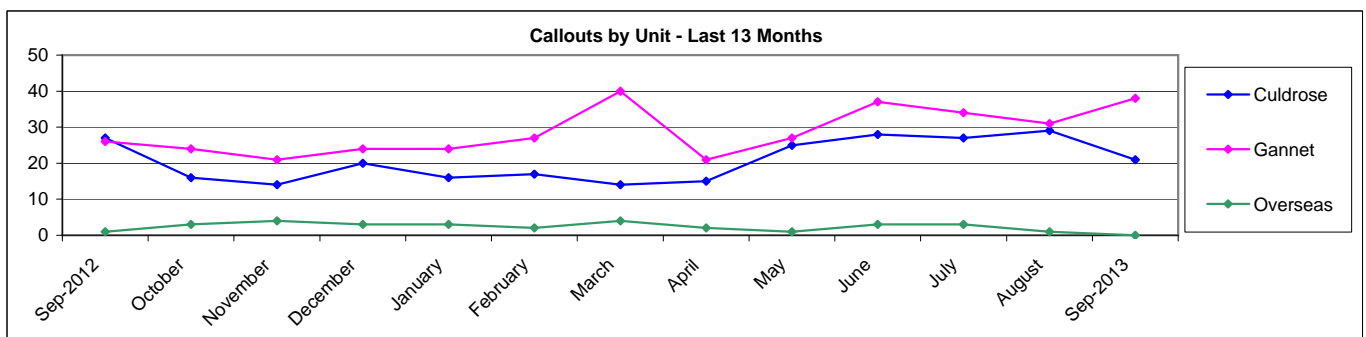
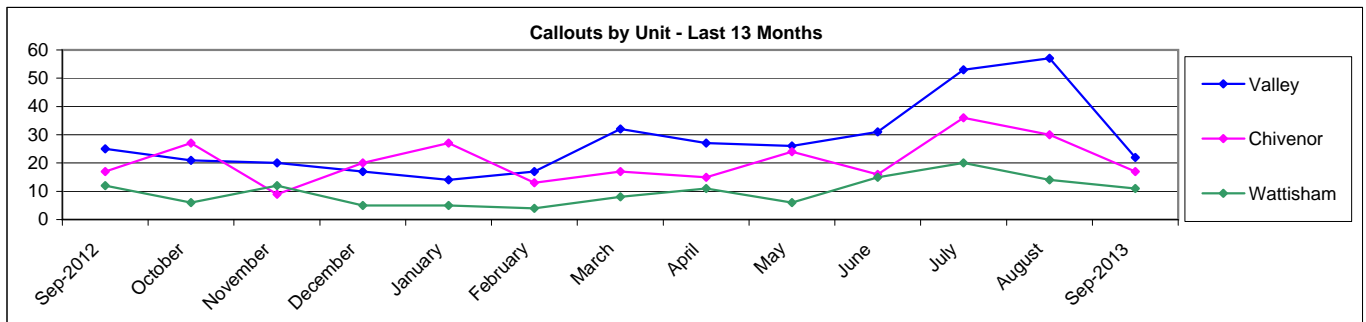
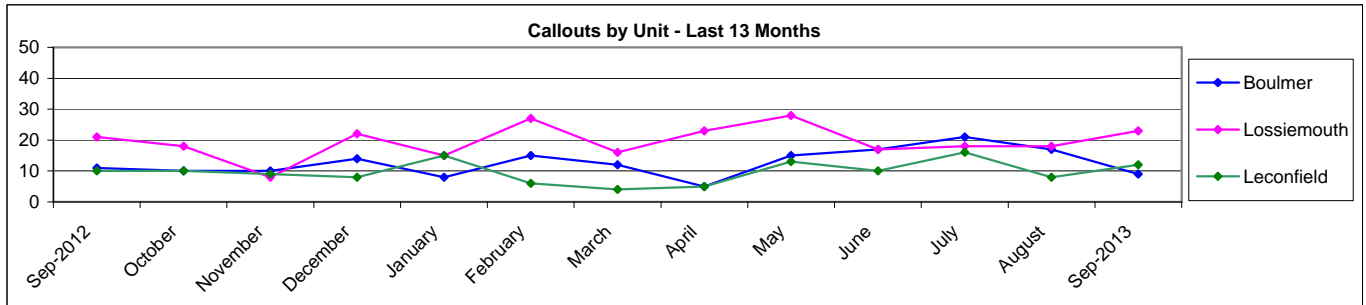
1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



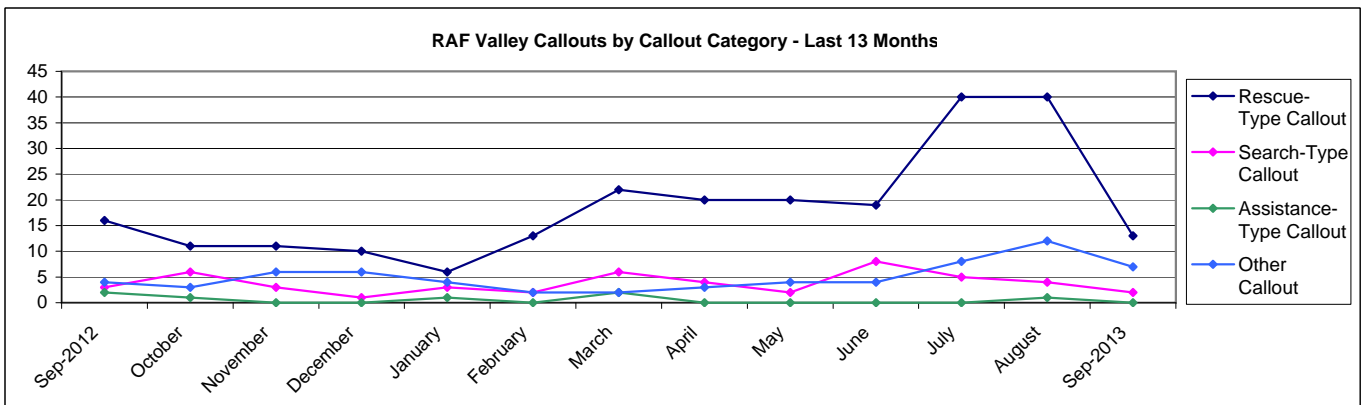
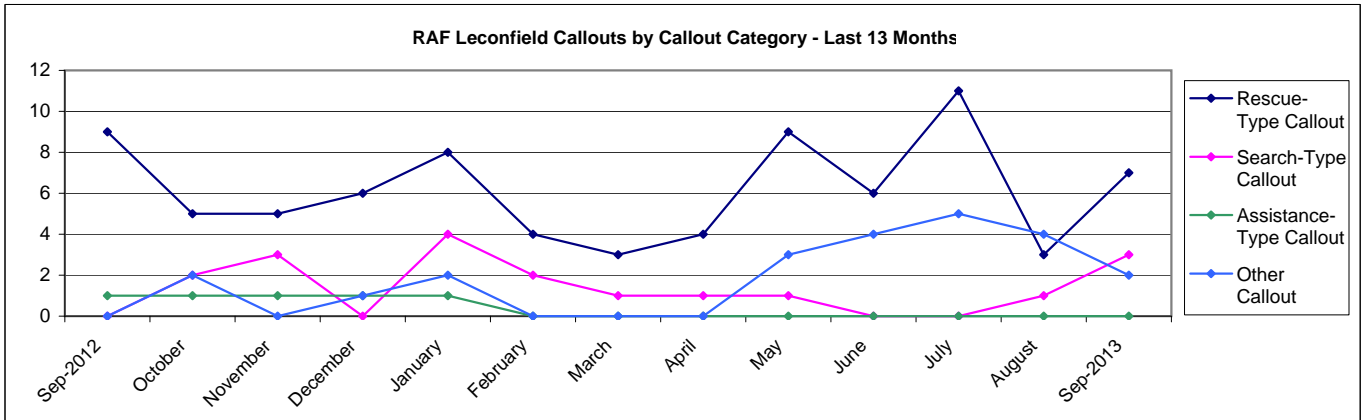
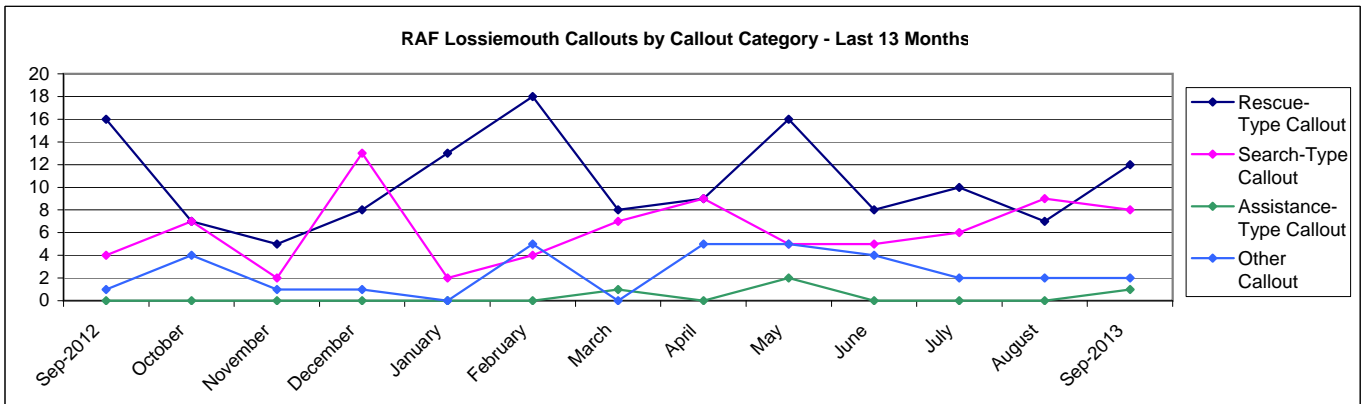
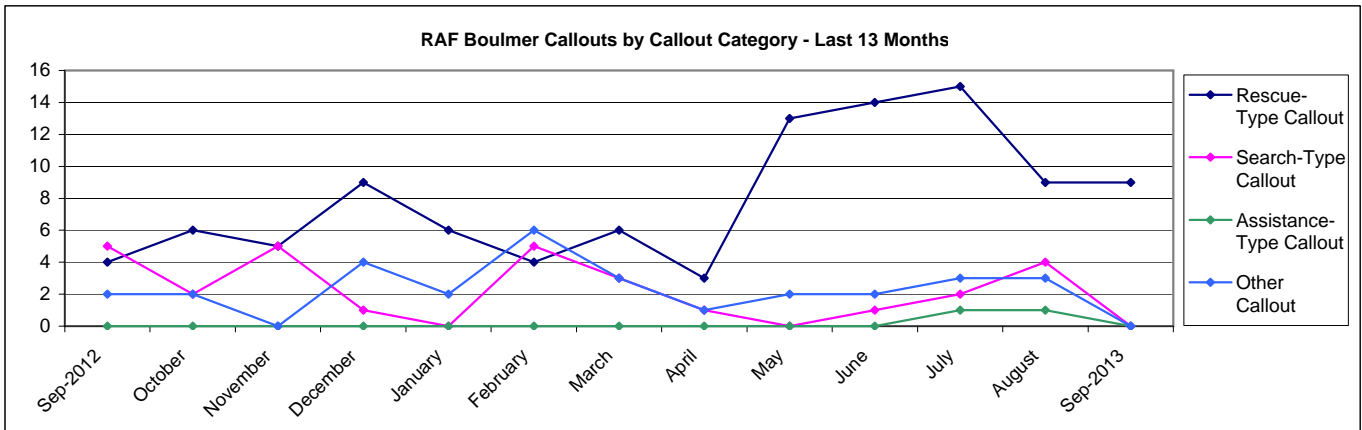
2. The requesting organisation is determined using an automated lookup function which searches for key text within the organisations' name. Within the 'Other' category, there may be a limited number of callouts by either Ambulance, Police or Coastguard due to the automated algorithm used.

# Callouts - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Cudrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	3	-	2	1	1	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	3	-	-	1	-	4	-	2	2	-	6	-	-	-
Medrescue	9	8	7	9	9	2	44	7	13	20	-	64	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	2	-	4	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	2	-	3	6	9	11	20	-	26	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	4	1	2	2	1	10	1	3	4	-	14	-	-	-
Top Cover	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-
Assist	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Search-Assist	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Recalled	-	2	1	1	1	2	7	3	2	5	-	12	-	-	-
Not Required	-	-	1	3	-	1	5	1	-	1	-	6	-	-	-
False Alarm	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hoax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-
Search-Aborted	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



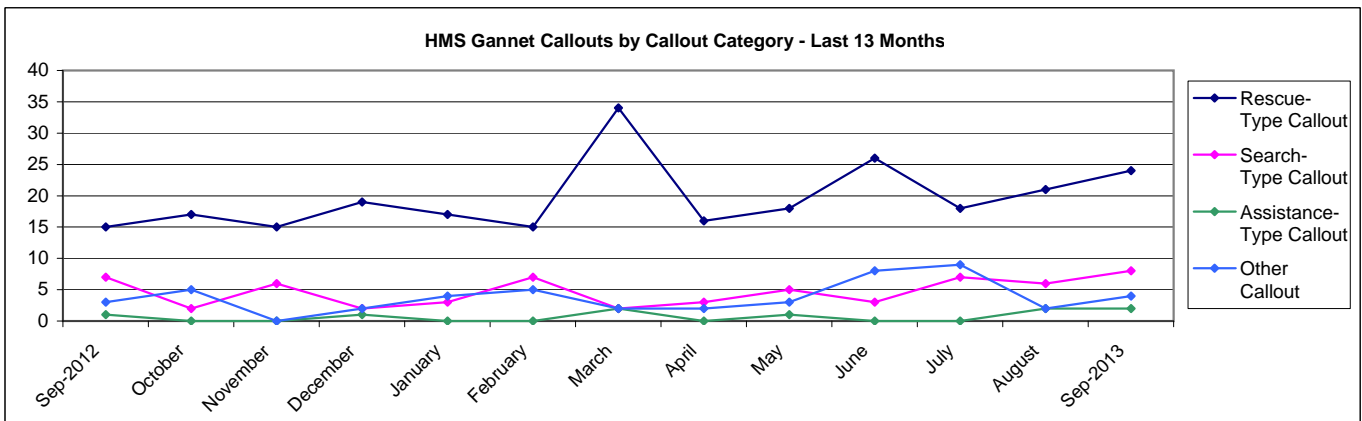
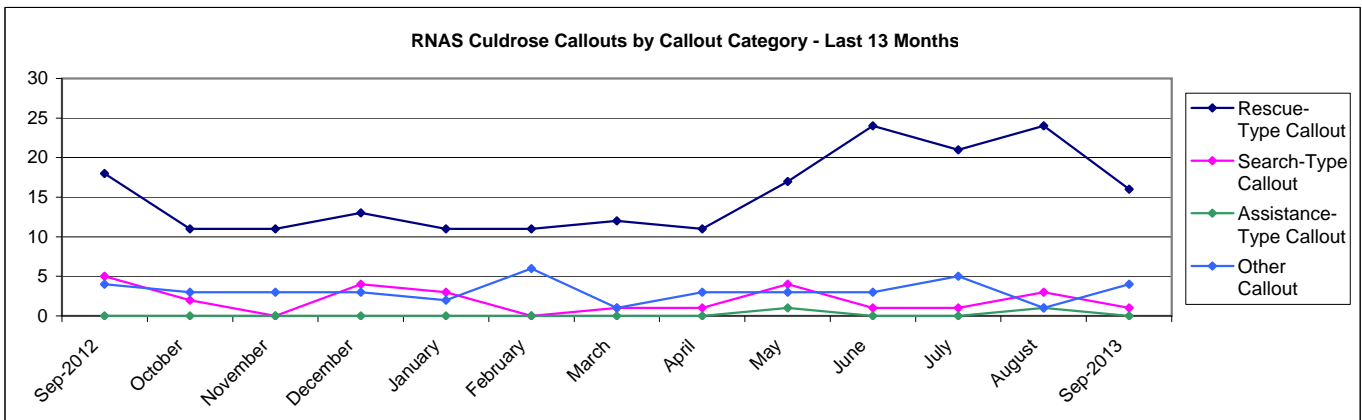
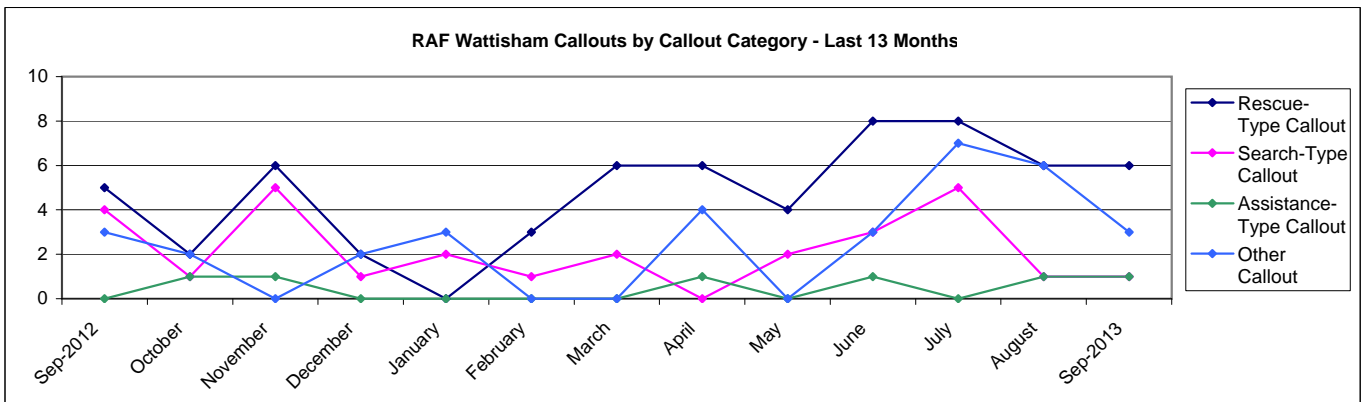
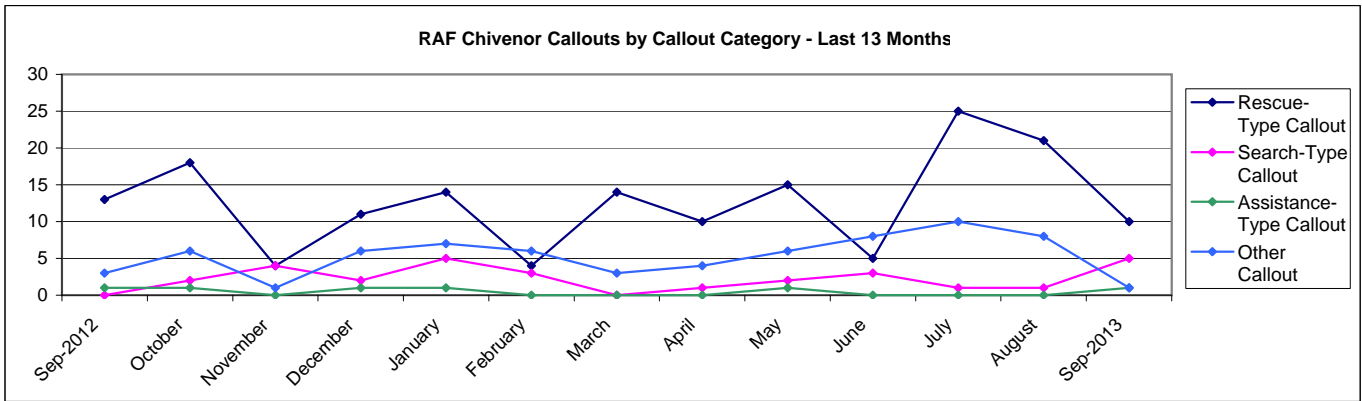
# Callouts - UK Helicopters



1. For definitions of callout groupings see SAR Definitions on page 10



# Callouts - UK Helicopters



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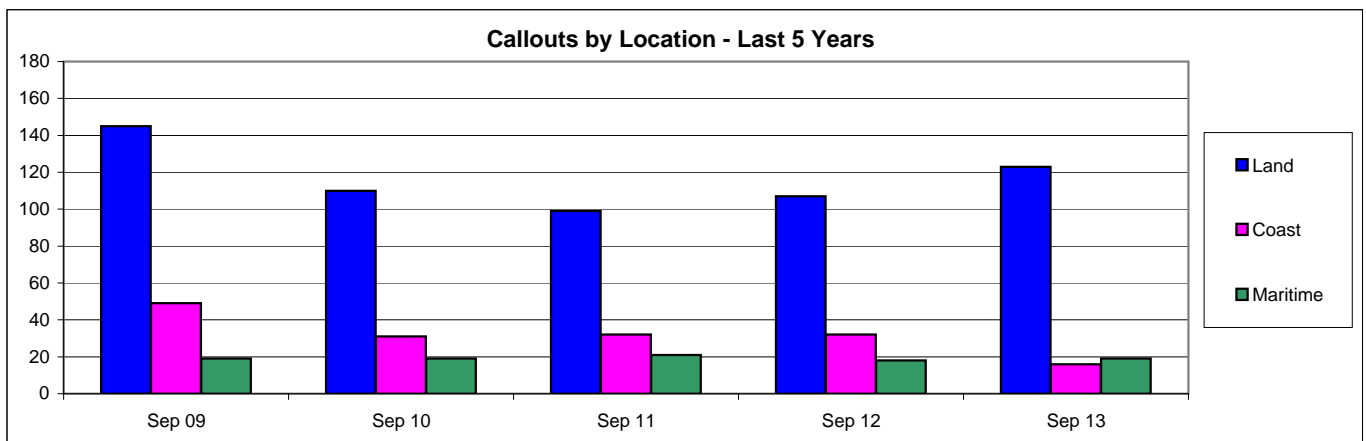
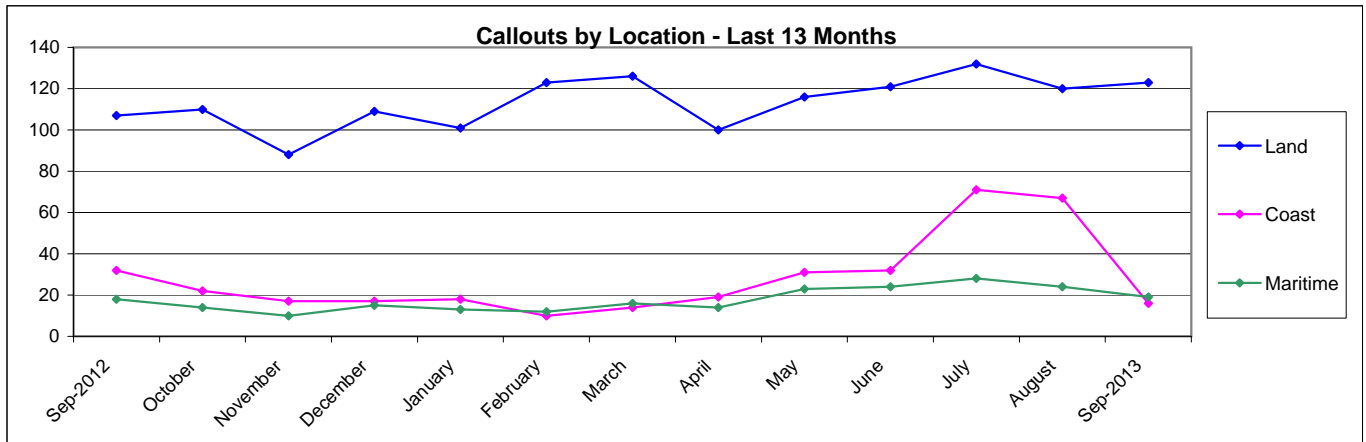
# Callouts - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

**Callouts by Location**

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	4	4	-	8
Search-Rescue	6	-	-	6
Medrescue	54	2	10	66
Search-Medrescue	4	-	-	4
Medtransfer	26	-	-	26
Recovery	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-
Search	7	2	5	14
Top Cover	-	1	2	3
Assist	3	-	-	3
Search-Assist	1	-	-	1
Recalled	9	2	1	12
Not Required	2	4	-	6
False Alarm	-	-	1	1
Hoax	-	1	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-
Aborted	3	-	-	3
Search-Aborted	2	-	-	2
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>158</b>

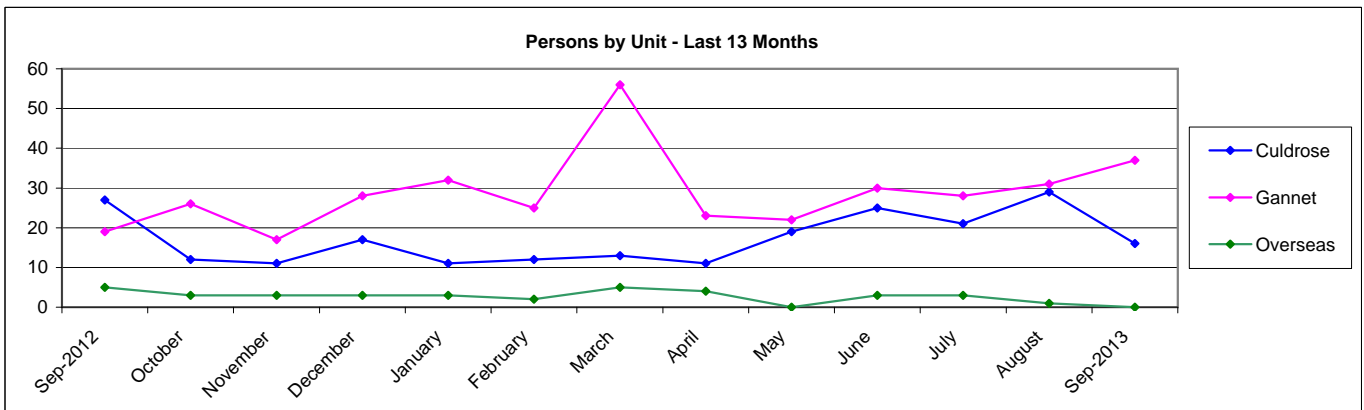
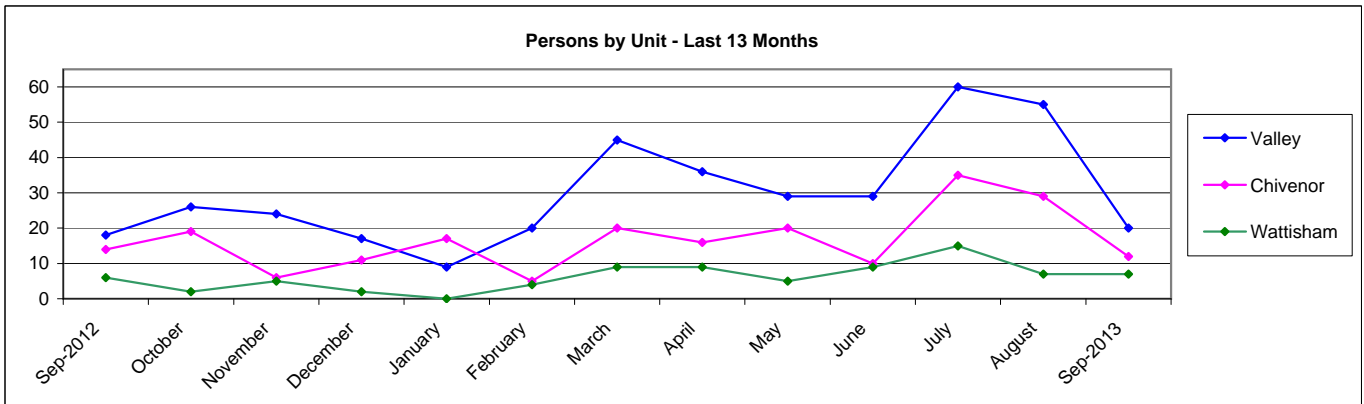
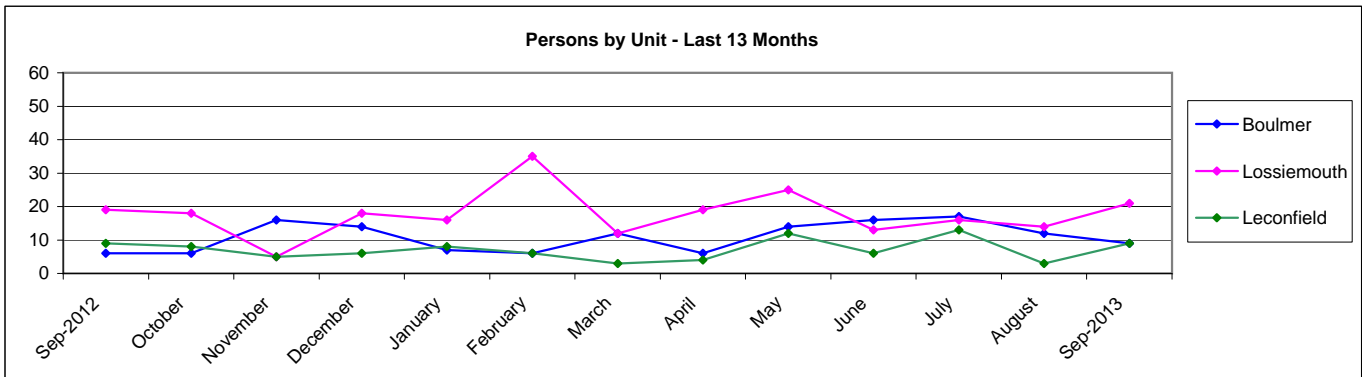
**Callouts by Category**

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Beacon	Flares	Person	Other	Total
Rescue	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	8
Search-Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Medrescue	-	5	2	3	-	-	56	-	66
Search-Medrescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Medtransfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	26
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civil Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search	-	1	2	3	-	-	8	-	14
Top Cover	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Assist	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Search-Assist	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Recalled	1	1	1	-	-	1	8	-	12
Not Required	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	6
False Alarm	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hoax	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Precaution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Search-Aborted	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
<b>Total Callouts</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158</b>



# Persons - Helicopters (UK & Overseas)

	RAF Boulmer	RAF Lossiemouth	RAF Leconfield	RAF Valley	RAF Chivenor	RAF Wattisham	RAF UK Total	RNAS Culdrose	HMS Gannet	RN Total	UK Other	UK Total	Cyprus	Falklands	Overseas Total
Rescue	-	5	-	8	1	2	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-
Search-Rescue	-	6	-	-	1	-	7	-	7	7	-	14	-	-	-
Medrescue	9	9	8	10	9	2	47	7	13	20	-	67	-	-	-
Search-Medrescue	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	3	3	-	5	-	-	-
Medtransfer	-	1	-	2	-	3	6	9	13	22	-	28	-	-	-
Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



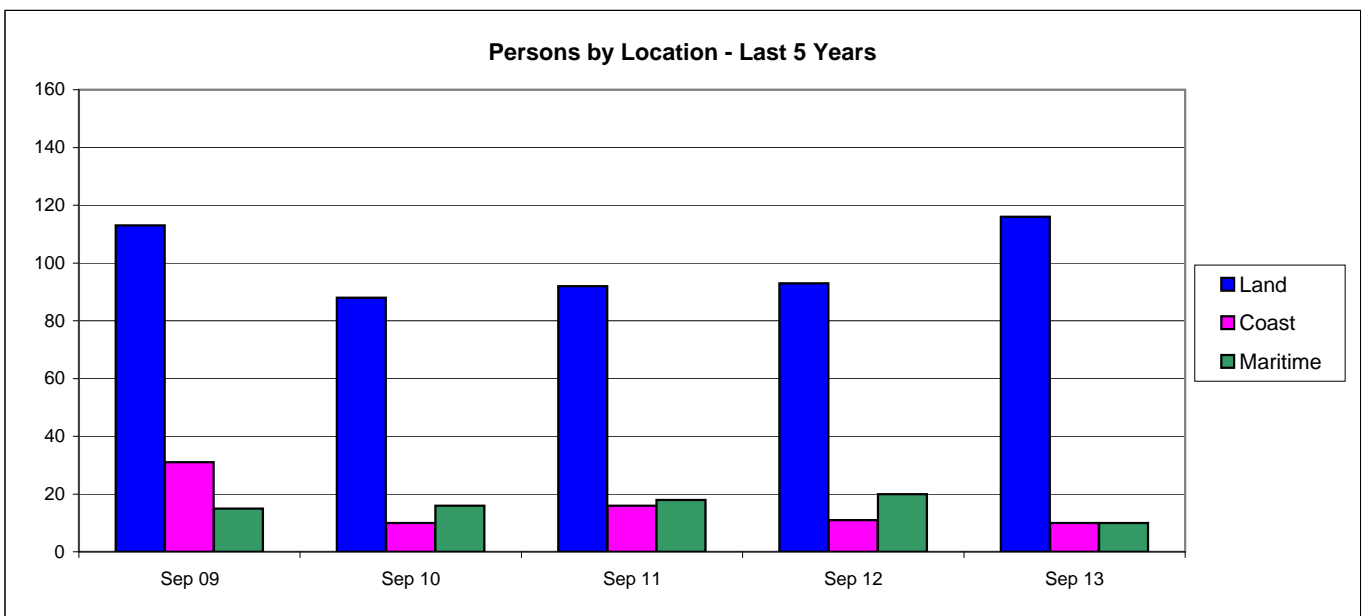
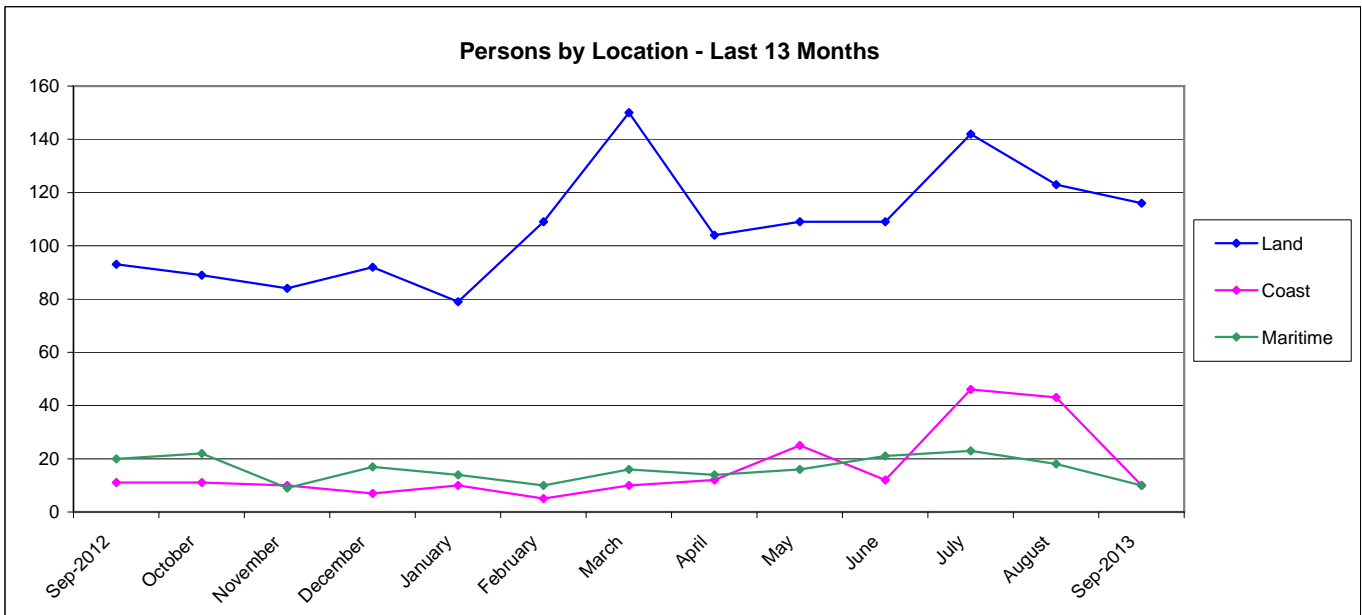
# Persons - Location & Category (UK & Overseas)

Persons by Callout Location

	Land	Coast	Maritime	Total
Rescue	9	7	-	16
Search-Rescue	14	-	-	14
Medrescue	58	3	10	71
Search-Medrescue	5	-	-	5
Medtransfer	28	-	-	28
Recovery	-	-	-	-
Search-Recovery	2	-	-	2
Transfer	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>136</b>

Persons by Callout Category

	Aero	Ship	Leisure Craft	Rig	Person	Other	Total
	-	-	2	-	14	-	16
	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
	-	5	2	3	61	-	71
	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
	-	-	-	-	28	-	28
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	5	4	3	124	-	136



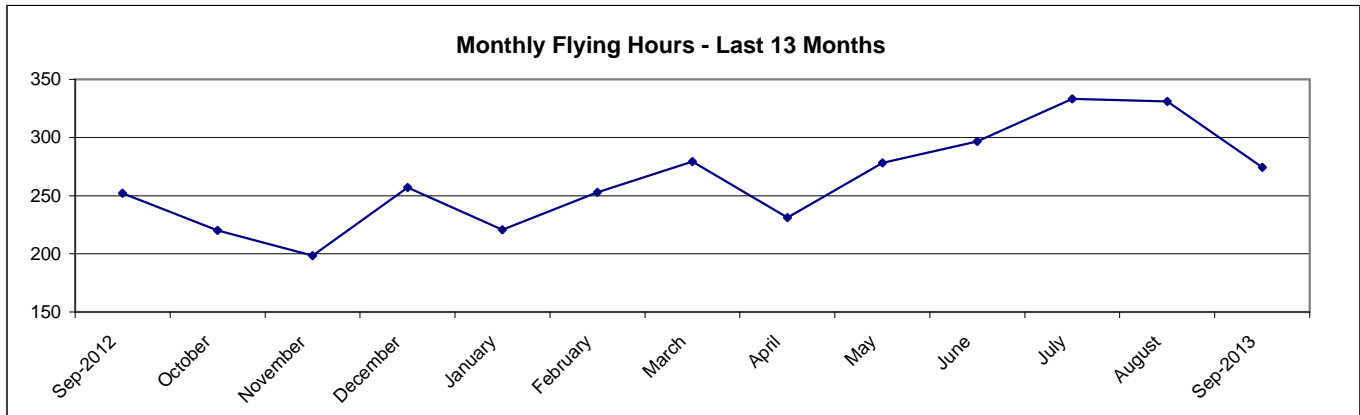
# SAR Flying Hours & Mountain Rescue Teams

## SAR Flying Hours<sup>3</sup>

	Total Flying Hours	Average Flying Hours	Average Time to Casualty <sup>4</sup>
RAF Boulmer	20.20	2.16	0.32
RAF Lossiemouth	54.18	2.22	0.30
RAF Leconfield	16.10	1.21	0.18
RAF Valley	36.50	1.40	0.23
RAF Chivenor	27.30	1.37	0.25
RAF Wattisham	19.21	1.46	0.29
RNAS Culdrose	36.15	1.44	0.23
HMS Gannet	63.40	1.41	0.26
UK Other Helicopters	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Falklands	-	-	-
Overseas Other Helicopters	-	-	-
	<b>274.24</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>0.25</b>

3. Times are expressed in Hours and Minutes.

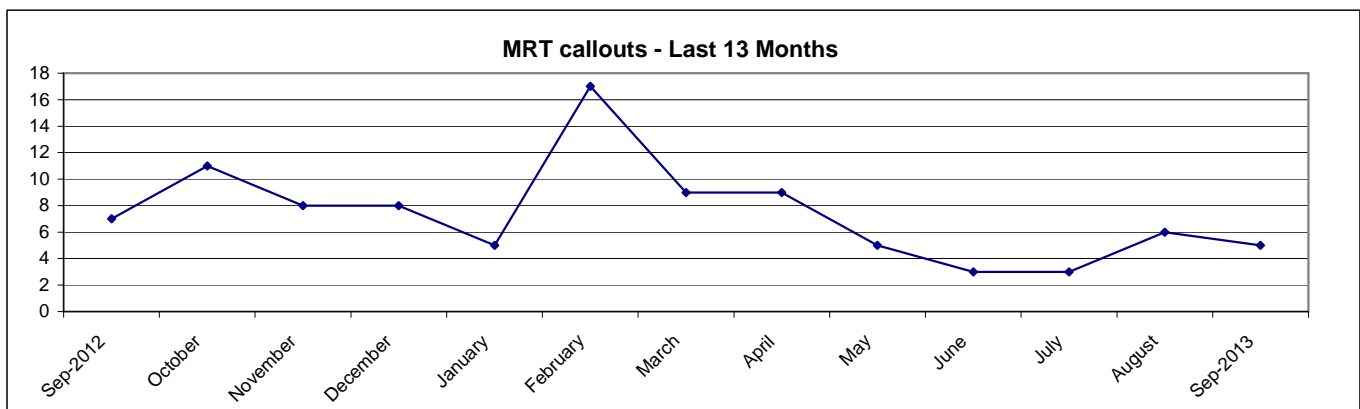
4. Time to casualty is the time from departure from base to arrival at incident.



## Mountain Rescue Teams

	Callouts	Persons	Man Hours
Lossiemouth <sup>5</sup>	2	1	641
Leeming	-	-	-
Leuchars	-	-	-
Valley	3	4	121
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>762</b>

5. Formerly MRT Kinloss



# SEARCH AND RESCUE DEFINITIONS

		GROUPING
RESCUE	Transfer of distressed uninjured person(s) from a hostile to a benign environment.	Rescue-Type
MEDRESCUE	Transfer of sick or injured persons(s) from a hostile environment to a recognised medical facility (eg, hospital or chamber).	Rescue-Type
TRANSFER	Transfer of military personnel, or their families, on compassionate grounds.	Rescue-Type
MEDTRANSFER	Transfer of patients or organs between medical establishments at the request of a recognised Medical Authority, i.e. NHS Trust, Hospital or Ambulance Authority.	Rescue-Type
RECOVERY	Recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Rescue-Type
SEARCH	Search for craft, person(s), etc which does not result in moving a person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of an uninjured person.	Search-Type
SEARCH – MEDRESCUE	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the rescue of a sick/injured casualty.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ASSIST	Search for craft, person(s), etc involving assistance to other SAR assets.	Search-Type
SEARCH – RECOVERY	Search for craft, person(s), etc resulting in the recovery of person(s) apparently dead.	Search-Type
SEARCH – ABORT	Search for craft, person(s), etc during which callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Search-Type
TOP-COVER	On-scene assistance, e.g. communications relay, target identification, vectoring to target etc. for another rescue asset, or as cover for person(s) or vessel(s) in distress that does not result in further intervention.	Assistance-Type
PRECAUTION	Pre-positioning of a SAR helicopter to provide faster response to an anticipated or potential incident, eg, in response to an aircraft declaring a “MAYDAY” or a potential incident on a offshore installation.	Assistance-Type
ASSIST	Assistance to other SAR assets etc, such as moving SAR personnel or equipment (eg, mountain rescue teams, divers, pumps), shepherding of aircraft etc.	Assistance-Type
CIVIL AID	Military Aid to the Civil Community (eg fire control).	Assistance-Type
RECALLED	Asset recalled from incident whilst en route.	Other
NOT REQUIRED	Asset arrived on scene but no action required.	Other
ABORT	Callout terminated due to eg malfunction or adverse weather.	Other
FALSE ALARM	Unnecessary callout with good intent.	Other
HOAX	Unnecessary callout with malicious intent	Other